O7F3MENF 1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK 2 3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 4 23 Cr. 490 (SHS) V. 5 ROBERT MENENDEZ, WAEL HANA, a/k/a "Will Hana," 6 and FRED DAIBES, 7 Defendants. Trial 8 ----x 9 New York, N.Y. July 15, 2024 9:30 a.m. 10 11 12 Before: 13 HON. SIDNEY H. STEIN, 14 District Judge 15 -and a Jury-16 APPEARANCES 17 DAMIAN WILLIAMS United States Attorney for the 18 Southern District of New York BY: DANIEL C. RICHENTHAL 19 ELI J. MARK CATHERINE E. GHOSH 20 Assistant United States Attorneys 21 22 23 24 25

7174 O7F3MENF 1 2 APPEARANCES CONTINUED 3 PAUL HASTINGS LLP 4 Attorneys for Defendant Menendez BY: ADAM FEE 5 AVI WEITZMAN 6 7 GIBBONS, P.C. Attorneys for Defendant Hana 8 BY: LAWRENCE S. LUSTBERG ANNE M. COLLART 9 RICARDO SOLANO, Jr. 10 11 CESAR DE CASTRO SETH H. AGATA 12 SHANNON M. McMANUS Attorneys for Defendant Daibes 13 14 Also Present: Bachar Alhalabi, Interpreter (Arabic) 15 Rodina Mikhail, Interpreter (Arabic) 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

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(Trial resumed; jury present time noted 9:42 a.m.) 1 2 THE COURT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Thank 3 you for being here. You may continue with your deliberations. We're here whenever you need us. 4 5 (Jury continues deliberations. Time noted 9:43 a.m.) THE COURT: Thank you. 6 7 (Recess pending verdict) (In open court; jury not present) 8 9 THE COURT: We have received a note from the jury. Ιt 10 says: "Does a not quilty verdict on a single count require 11 unanimity?" 12 I've assembled the lawyers and the lawyers have agreed 13 upon the following response: "Jury, your vote -- whether 14 guilty or not guilty -- must be unanimous as to each count and 15 each defendant." 16 Government? 17 MR. MARK: No objection, your Honor. 18 MR. FEE: Your Honor, with a bit more consideration we 19 would make a very minor suggestion for this reason. What your 20 Honor just read does say each count and each defendant. 21 note doesn't reference defendants. The note says does a not 22 guilty verdict on a single count require unanimity. 23 So the one suggestion we would propose, just to make 24 it a little even more clear, is the portion of the Court's

charge, it is charge 89 on page 132, the first paragraph on

	O7F3MEN2 Deliberations
1	this issue. And I'm happy to read it once the Court is there.
2	THE COURT: Go ahead.
3	MR. FEE: I'm going to read one proposed addition just
4	to make clear these are alleged. But it reads on page 132, I'm
5	going to drop "in addition" and start with, "You must consider
6	each count of the indictment and each defendant's alleged
7	involvement in that count separately, and you must return a
8	separate verdict on each defendant for each count in which he
9	is charged."
10	Same idea. Just I think slightly more specific, given
11	the general nature of the question here.
12	MR. RICHENTHAL: We object to that. It doesn't
13	respond to the note.
14	THE COURT: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to speak over
15	you.
16	MR. RICHENTHAL: It does not respond to the note.
17	THE COURT: Yes. I think that's correct. The
18	government does not object to it. That really is a separate
19	issue, Mr. Fee. I think this response is directly responsive.
20	Mr. Lustberg?
21	MR. LUSTBERG: We're fine with it, your Honor. I
22	always prefer if the Court says not guilty or guilty as opposed
23	to guilty or not guilty, particularly given note. So I ask you

THE COURT: It's already written and it follows the

reverse those two. But other than that, I'm fine with it.

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Deliberations

1	layout	of	the	verdict	sheet

MR. DE CASTRO: We're fine with it, Judge.

THE COURT: All right. Let's send this back in.

Again it says, "Your vote -- whether guilty or not guilty -must be unanimous as to each count and each defendant."

Thank you very much.

(Recess pending verdict)

(In open court; jury not present)

THE COURT: Just so the record is complete, at 12:25, I received Court Exhibit No. 4, a note from the jury, "Can the jury go to the eighth floor outside terrace for a break at 12:30 p.m." And I assembled the lawyers and everyone agreed that they could.

We now have Court Exhibit No. 5, timed at 1:55 p.m. It is a note from the jury "Does intervening in the federal prosecution of Daibes in New Jersey fall under Counts Eleven and Twelve in the indictment."

Seems to me the answer to that is yes, assuming they find that the elements are met.

MR. RICHENTHAL: That's exactly right. And we would have no objection obviously with the Court so instructing.

It may be helpful that the jury be given a redacted copy of the indictment, precisely so that this issue, meaning what actions fall into what counts, is more clear.

MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor, I'm not sure I agree with

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Deliberations

1	the assessment on in that regard, either by the government or
2	as to the answer.
3	THE COURT: Just a moment. Earlier, I had requested
4	the parties to agree upon a redacted indictment which I said I
5	would send in if they asked for it. They haven't done that
6	yet.
7	Does somebody have a copy of that agreed-upon redacted
8	copy?
9	MR. RICHENTHAL: There is an agreed-upon copy. We can
10	print copies for the Court.
11	THE COURT: Can you do that now?
12	But I have the unredacted copy, so let me hear
13	Mr. Weitzman.
14	MR. WEITZMAN: Yes, your Honor. So, it may well be
15	that the jury is using "intervening in the federal prosecution
16	of Daibes" as a shorthand for what is actually charged in Count
17	Eleven.
18	But Count Eleven is actually substantially different
19	than mere intervening in the case. Specifically, when you look
20	at paragraph 99 of Count Eleven, which is the to wit clause, it
21	concerns
22	THE COURT: Just a moment. See, the version I have
23	the copy I have hasn't been redacted to take Mrs. Menendez out.
24	Can somebody give me a copy of what they have?

MR. RICHENTHAL: Our paralegals are printing the copy

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1 that the parties have agreed upon. 2 THE COURT: All right. 3 MR. WEITZMAN: In any event, your Honor, though, whether Nadine is mentioned or not, the to wit clause in Count 4 5 Eleven does not refer to intervening in the federal prosecution. It refers to using Menendez's official authority 6 7 and influence to recommend that the --8 THE COURT: Just let me find it. Just a moment. 9 MR. WEITZMAN: Yes. 10 THE COURT: Where are you reading from, sir? MR. WEITZMAN: I'm reading this from the to wit clause 11 of paragraph 99 in the S4 indictment. 12 13 THE COURT: I have that under Count Ten. 14 MR. WEITZMAN: It may be that I'm looking at the 15 redacted indictment. My apologies. 16 Do you see the language in any event? But it's the to 17 wit clause of Count Eleven. 18 THE COURT: To wit, Menendez solicited and obtained 19 thing of value. 20 MR. WEITZMAN: Correct, your Honor. And the point 21 being this is a bribery count. It is not an obstruction count. 22 It is not a different count. They need to understand what

And so, what we would propose would be to start with

Count Eleven actually charges, which isn't just mere

intervention in the Daibes case.

Deliberations

1	respect to the Count Eleven, on page 52 of your Honor's charge
2	where it summarizes Count Eleven, just generically, in
3	paragraph 2, it states Count Eleven, the second sentence:
4	Count Eleven charges Robert Menendez with, and then it
5	continues. And then I would continue
6	THE COURT: Let me find it. Yes, I see it, sir.
7	MR. WEITZMAN: Then we would continue more
8	specifically, and then quote the to wit clause).
9	THE COURT: I would like to make it simpler for the
10	jury.
11	MR. RICHENTHAL: I think there are actually two
12	issues, your Honor. One is that's not that simple. But the
13	other is there is a specific way in which it's not simple that
14	is going to give them a misimpression. And what that is, as
15	the Court knows, is Mr. Menendez is charged in the conjunctive,
16	but the jury can find him guilty in the disjunctive. In other
17	words, it is not the case that the jury must find all of the
18	listed items in that to wit clause to find him guilty of the
19	counts.
20	So if the Court were to do as Mr. Weitzman requests,
21	the jury would be under the legally incorrect misimpression it
22	would have to find that Mr. Menendez did all of those things.
23	In fact, they can find he only did one of them, they can find

he did two of them, or they can find he did all of them.

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This is their language. I don't think that stating clause. "yes" is the right answer. Their question misunderstands the charge. It doesn't understand that it is a bribery charge. It just says intervening in a federal prosecution.

THE COURT: I understand. Let me see if I can craft something, and if the parties want to do that, that's fine, too. Just give me a couple of minutes here.

I suggest this: Count Eleven charges Menendez with demanding, receiving, and accepting a bribe from Daibes in return for being influenced in the performance of an official act.

Intervening in the federal prosecution of Daibes would fall under Count Eleven if the jury finds each of the elements of Count Eleven have been met beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mr. Weitzman?

MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor, may I ask you to repeat that one more time?

THE COURT: Yes.

Count Eleven charges Menendez -- I'll make it Mr. Menendez -- with demanding, receiving, and accepting a bribe from Mr. Daibes in return for being influenced in the performance of an official act.

Intervening in the federal prosecution of Daibes or Mr. Daibes would fall under Count Eleven, if the jury finds each of the elements of Count Eleven have been met beyond a

Deliberations

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reasonable doubt.

The elements of Count Eleven can be found on pages 52-53 of the jury charge.

MR. RICHENTHAL: Your Honor, there's one statement in the Court's instruction, which is otherwise fine for the government, that I think adopts I think inadvertently the thing that I was saying should not be done, which the Court said demanding, receiving, and accepting. It can be "and/or" or it can be "or," meaning it does not have to be both demanding and receiving and accepting. He can do any one of those.

THE COURT: I understand.

MR. RICHENTHAL: And the Court's instructions say that. That is page --

THE COURT: I'm looking. The instructions in the title use the conjunctive, because that's how the statute reads.

MR. RICHENTHAL: Correct.

THE COURT: Let me look.

MR. RICHENTHAL: But the first sentence of the instruction itself, I'm referring to page 52.

THE COURT: You are correct.

MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor, we have a concern with that charge. Intervening --

THE COURT: You mean with the note.

MR. WEITZMAN: Intervening is not charged in this

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case. It is not an intervening case, whatever that means. It could result in a variance. We don't know what they mean when they say intervening.

The simplest and most accurate way of dealing with it is to quote from the charge. So the language we would propose, I'll read it once and then if you are amenable, I'll slow it down.

Count Eleven charges Robert Menendez with demanding, receiving, or accepting bribes in return for certain official actions to benefit Daibes, and to assist Daibes by acting for the benefit of the government of Qatar.

The official action charged in Count Eleven is that

Menendez solicited and obtained things of value in exchange for
his agreement to use his official authority and influence to
recommend that the president nominate a candidate for U.S.

Attorney for the District of New Jersey who Menendez believed
could be influenced by Menendez with respect to Daibes'
criminal case, and attempted to cause, through advice and
pressure, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New
Jersey to act favorably to Daibes in Daibes' criminal case.

The point is there needs to be a reference to advice and pressure which is the *McDonnell* test. And while it's referenced in the four pages that you're referring to, it can't just be intervention because that is not advice and pressure.

THE COURT: I understand the point.

MR. RICHENTHAL: I'm not going to repeat what I said before, but that's completely wrong. The jury does not have to find all those things. Also Mr. Weitzman left out the final part of the to wit clause. So if the jury is going to be told all the things Mr. Menendez is alleged to have done, they should be told all of them, not just some of them. But they don't have to find all of them.

MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor --

THE COURT: What is it that he left out that you want? Knowing that Daibes expected Menendez in exchange?

MR. RICHENTHAL: Yes. Because among the things he is alleged to have done is received money with that expectation.

To be clear, this note to me is not controversial.

The jury wants to know if factually intervening -- that's their word, not mine -- in this case would fall within this count.

And that question makes some sense because the Court's instruction at page 52 says official actions. It doesn't say which ones. I think the jury simply wants to know does this set of facts, assuming they find them to be facts, count, and the answer is yes if all the other elements are met. The Court's proposal is entirely right.

THE COURT: I want to look at what I wrote.

MR. WEITZMAN: I don't understand how the government can run away from its own to wit clause.

THE COURT: I don't think the to wit clause assists

the jury because it just has a lot of legalese, and they're asking a very straightforward question.

MR. WEITZMAN: I know. But the legalese that -- the word that they're using "intervention," is nowhere in the charge or in the indictment. So to adopt that word is to, unfortunately, it could result in a variance or it could result in just deviating from what --

THE COURT: I understand the point. Let me put pencil to paper.

Count Eleven charges Mr. Menendez with demanding, receiving, or accepting a bribe from Mr. Daibes in return for being influenced in the performance of an official act.

Actions by Mr. Menendez involving the federal prosecution of Mr. Daibes would fall under Count Eleven, if the jury finds each of the elements of Count Eleven have been met beyond a reasonable doubt.

The elements of Count Eleven can be found on pages 52-53 of the jury charge.

What I've done is I've taken the word "intervening" out, and substituted "actions by Mr. Menendez."

Mr. Weitzman? That gets "intervening" out and I think it does what we need.

MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor, I think the issue from our perspective is that they seem not to understand what Count Eleven and Counts Twelve actually charge.

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Deliberations

And so, in the absence of a to wit clause, referring them to the elements when they still don't understand what the subject matter of Count Eleven and Twelve is, is the problem.

THE COURT: I say it charges Menendez with demanding, receiving, or accepting a bribe.

MR. WEITZMAN: The question is with respect to what. So it says be influenced in the performance of an official act. That is the same amorphousness that is in the current charge. What they're asking about is what does the count charge as an official act. And so we think that it needs to specify exactly what the charge by the government was of an official act. seem to be confused as to what Count Eleven and Twelve actually charge.

THE COURT: Why do you say that?

MR. WEITZMAN: Because they're asking what falls under Count Eleven and Twelve, and then they're asking whether intervening in the federal prosecution of Daibes falls under those counts.

There is nothing in the jury instruction that actually describe what is the alleged official actions to benefit Daibes That's the issue that I think they're struggling with. So we want to give them the guidance to what the official actions charged.

Yeah, but the problem is, I don't think THE COURT: the to wit clause does that.

MF	R. WEITZMAN: Your	Honor, the to	wit clause is wh	nat
our client	was charged with	in Count Eleven	and what Mr. Da	aibes
was charged	d with in Count Tw	elve. That's t	he language that	t the
government	chose to charge.	It is the lang	uage the governr	nent
is stuck wi	ith in its charge.	And that's wh	at the jury show	ıld
be advised	of.			

MR. RICHENTHAL: As I think the Court knows, to wit clauses are not for the jury. They're not written for this purpose. They're written to put Mr. Menendez on notice of the full panoply of actions the government may choose to charge. It would be utterly incomprehensible to answer their question that way.

The question is very simple. Do the actions involving the District of New Jersey count under Counts Eleven and Twelve or not. The answer is they do.

The Court's original proposal was correct. The Court's new proposal is correct. The Court should simply answer what the jury is asking.

THE COURT: Just a moment.

I'm going to use the language of actions. Let me read it to you now, and I'll add in Count Twelve.

Count Eleven charges Mr. Menendez with demanding, receiving, or accepting a bribe from Mr. Daibes in return for being influenced in the performance of an official act.

Actions by Mr. Menendez involving the federal

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prosecution of Mr. Daibes fall under Count Eleven if the jury finds each of the elements of Count Eleven have been met beyond a reasonable doubt.

The elements of Count Eleven can be found on pages 52-53 of the jury charge.

Count Twelve charges Mr. Daibes with demanding or accepting a bribe in exchange for official actions to benefit Daibes, and to assist Daibes by acting for the benefit of the government of Qatar, in exchange for official actions to benefit Daibes and to assist Daibes by acting for the benefit of the government of Qatar.

In order for the jury to find Mr. Daibes guilty of Count Twelve, the jury must find each of the elements of Count Twelve have been met beyond a reasonable doubt.

Those elements can be found on pages 63-64 of the jury charge.

MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor, I'm noting my objection but --

THE COURT: Just a moment. I need it to be printed out and to see it.

Yes, Mr. Weitzman.

MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor, this is a confusing instruction and it does not do what the jury needs in two respects with respect to Count Eleven.

The first is that broadening Count Eleven to refer to

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actions involving the federal prosecution of Mr. Daibes as the Court proposes goes well beyond what is charged and what the evidence would sustain.

THE COURT: Yes, but I'm trying to answer their question and you don't want me to use the word "intervening."

MR. WEITZMAN: Exactly, your Honor. But it's certainly not all actions involving the federal prosecution. So for example, your Honor --

THE COURT: That's true. It is only those that beyond a reasonable doubt meet the four elements.

MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor, while that's correct, that shorthand is confusing and it suggests that lots of actions could satisfy that.

There are only two actions that are charged here, your Two actions. And it is in the to wit clause. Honor. Nominating someone who Senator Menendez believed would be beneficial to the Daibes case, and then two, using advice and pressure, causing through advice and pressure the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey to act favorably to Daibes. Those are the two actions. No other action can sustain the indictment. And so, that's with respect to Count Eleven.

With respect to Count Twelve, which is not our count, but I did notice that you said Mr. Daibes demands or accepted a It is the opposite, the charging language for Count

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1	Twelve, because it's Mr. Daibes gave, offered, or promised to
2	offer promises things of value or bribes.
3	THE COURT: Let me look at it. I think you're right.
4	Just let me look. Offering or paying.
5	MR. WEITZMAN: Yeah. I mean, not my count. But
6	THE COURT: Just let me change that because I think
7	you're right. Go ahead.
8	MR. WEITZMAN: I'll also note that there is an
9	inconsistency with respect to Count Twelve. You reference
10	Qatar, which is the same charge as in Count Eleven, just the
11	inverse of it but
12	THE COURT: Right.
13	MR. WEITZMAN: But I very much believe that the jury
14	needs to be informed of what the government has charged here.
15	And they're not being informed of that.
16	MR. RICHENTHAL: That's wrong legally for the reasons
17	I've already explained.
18	THE COURT: Just a moment.
19	I think in Twelve, just to make it correct, Count
20	Twelve charges Mr. Daibes with offering or paying a bribe in
21	exchange for official actions to benefit Daibes.
22	Mr. Richenthal, what were you going to say?

MR. RICHENTHAL: I was just going to say, I think
Mr. Weitzman's arguments are well preserved, but with respect
to the proposal, the Court had language for the first count

that we're talking, about Count Eleven, answering the jury's question which is does conduct involving the District of New Jersey count.

I don't think the Court had the equivalent language for Count Twelve. The answer is "yes." The jury is asking something very simple, and the Court's instruction on Count Eleven says, in sum, yes. Those actions, if you otherwise find they meet the elements, satisfy Count Eleven. I don't think the Court, at least as I heard it and as I'm seeing on the screen, had the equivalent sentence for Count Twelve. The answer is also "yes."

THE COURT: You're talking about actions by
Mr. Menendez -- actions by Mr. Daibe -- what do you proffer is
the equivalent language?

MR. RICHENTHAL: It would be that Mr. Daibes offered or paid a bribe for those actions. It is, as Mr. Weitzman used, the inverse. That is the actions count. Now here we are talking about what he's paying for, rather than what the money is being received for.

But the jury's question, as I understand it, is very simple. Are those in these counts or not. And the answer is yes, these actions are in each of these counts.

THE COURT: You know what I'm going to do? We've gotten too convoluted here, and I think I'm going to boil it down, but include the requirement that the government must

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1 prove beyond a reasonable doubt. 2 MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: Yes. 4 MR. WEITZMAN: I have one other suggestion. We still 5 maintain that --6 THE COURT: Look, I want to get this back to the jury. 7 MR. WEITZMAN: I do too. We still maintain the proposal we had before is the right proposal. 8 9 THE COURT: You have your exception, sir. If you want 10 to argue a variance, that's up to you, if indeed there is a 11 conviction. 12 MR. WEITZMAN: But, the change in language is just a 13 few words, your Honor. Instead of "actions involving the 14 federal prosecution," I would say "actions to improperly 15 influence the federal prosecution." Because there needs to be some understanding that, for instance, not every -- that there 16 17 has to be advice and pressure to influence, which is the 18 language of the indictment. The words influence. 19 THE COURT: This is what I'm going to do. 20 You have asked me "Does intervening in the federal prosecution of Daibes in New Jersey fall under Counts Eleven 21 22 and Twelve in the indictment." 23 The answer to your question is yes, as long as the

jury concludes that the government has proven each of the

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The elements of Count Eleven that must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt may be found on pages 52-53 of the jury charge; the elements of Count Twelve that must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt may be found on pages 63-64 of the jury charge.

MR. WEITZMAN: Your Honor, respectfully, I think that just got worse.

No. I would assume you thought that. I'm THE COURT: trying to boil it down and you have your objection.

MR. WEITZMAN: But your Honor, it would be better to just refer them to the charge without the "yes." To adopt the language of intervening in the federal action as what is charged is incorrect.

THE COURT: I understand. Let me look at it.

MR. RICHENTHAL: It is what is charged.

THE COURT: Pardon me?

MR. RICHENTHAL: I just responded to Mr. Weitzman saying it is what is charged. I literally used those words in It is not the only thing that's charged, but it is rebuttal. what's charged.

THE COURT: I've changed it slightly and this discussion is at an end.

My note to the jury will read: You have asked me "Does intervening in the federal prosecution of Daibes in New Jersey fall under Counts Eleven and Twelve in the indictment?"

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Deliberations

I will respond, "Intervening in the federal prosecution of Daibes" falls within Counts Eleven and Twelve, only if the jury concludes that the government has proven each of the elements of Counts Eleven and Twelve beyond a reasonable doubt.

The elements of Count Eleven that must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt may be found on pages 52-53 of the jury charge; the elements of Count Twelve that must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt may be found on pages 63-64 of the jury charge.

I'm going to send that back in to the jury.

Mr. Menendez's defense has an exception. I need to get this back to the jury.

MR. RICHENTHAL: Just for clarity of the record, can your Honor ask Mr. Daibes' counsel his position?

Mr. Menendez's counsel doesn't have standing.

MR. DE CASTRO: We're fine with the Court's instruction.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. DE CASTRO: Your Honor, are you marking these as court exhibits just so I know what you send back in?

THE COURT: This one, on the other one, I had just written on the original one.

MR. DE CASTRO: I see.

THE COURT: This one I'm writing out, I'm typing out a

separate note, so I will mark it as Court Exhibit 6. 1 2 earlier one was written on the jury's note, so they have it 3 back in the jury room. 4 And I'm signing this. I'm dating it 7/15/24, 5 3:10 p.m. I'm sending it back in to the jury. Thank you. 6 No need to rise. I'm leaving the bench. 7 (Recess pending verdict) 8 (In open court; jury not present) 9 THE COURT: Bring the jury in. I have a note which 10 I'm going to mark with the next number. It says "The jury is 11 finished for the day." 12 (Jury present. Time noted 4:40 p.m.) 13 THE COURT: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. 14 Thank you for your note. I received it and you said you're 15 finished for the day. 16 We'll see you tomorrow. Keep an open mind. 17 deliberate or look at exhibits until I see all 12 of you are 18 here and I have told you to recommence your deliberations. 19 Thank you. See you tomorrow at 9:30. 20 (Jury not present) 21 THE COURT: 9:30. Thank you. 22 (Adjourned until July 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.) 23 24 25